

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Explosion at the North Bohemian Fat Works, Usti nad Labem	DATE DISTR.	19 November 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

In December 1953, an oil explosion took place in the North Bohemian Fat Works (Severoceske tukove zavody) in Usti nad Labem. The explosion was caused by the carelessness of workers engaged in welding. It occurred in the oil pressing shop during the lunch hour. The shop foreman's instructions were to let the fans operate at the end of the shift; however, the workers continued their work and the vapors were not absorbed by the fans. Welders who were called to make repairs in the pressing shop after the shift lighted the autogene (welding machine) and the accumulated vapors exploded. The building was closed by the police after the explosion because of the danger of a second explosion of the oil in the pipes leading to the tanks. However, the second explosion did not take place. Twenty-five people were burned in the explosion; one of them died of the burns.

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